387 The Chinese Nationalist Government with
241 American aid has made special effort to expand the production of fertilizer in the past five years[29] and make it available to the farmer through the Land Bank of Taiwan and the farmers' associations. The Kaohsiung Ammonium Sulfate Corporation reduced the selling price of fertilizer, from NT$3,100 to NT$2,800 per metric ton in June 1954 and then to NT$2,200 in August 1954. But the present production still falls short of the estimated annual requirement of 740,000 metric tons.[30]

241 At present, farm mechanization is in
407 its infancy. Little power is employed in agricultural production. Farm implements are crude and clumsy; they do not plow deeply and evenly, and so the distribution and the depth of the seeds sown are not uniform. The Sino-American Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction is sponsoring many projects to

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29. Production was increased from 45,840 metric tons in 1949 to 168,491 metric tons in 1954.

30. The amount of fertilizer actually used in 1952 was 535,801 metric tons-- (732,600 short tons), JCRR General Report IV, Taipei, 1953, p. 55.

241 improve the designs of local farm implements --
409 the plow, the hoe, the sickle and the rice thresher; it is also introducing the use of hand-operated semi-automatic sprayers and rotary dusters. A demonstration of mechanized farming was made on an abandoned pineapple farm in Laopei. It was found that, with deep sub-soiling and deep plowing by a tractor, the cost of production can be reduced from 35 to 40 per cent. This clearly proves that land reform is but one step toward the amelioration of the economy of the farming population in Formosa. In order to raise the standard of living of the farmer, when the arable area is limited and the average holding is small, the per unit and per capita yield must be increased. To enhance a program of productive efficiency, which would include the application of greater amounts of fertilizer, the mechanization of the farms, and other improvements of agricultural techniques, the farmer himself must learn these modern methods in order to increase the value of the land he holds.

241 the postwar years. These goals can be
488 attained without the expansion of present planted acreage and are more optimistic than the goals contemplated for 1956 in the Formosan Four-Year Plan.[9]

If the per unit yield can be increased and additional land is made productive, there is no reason why Formosa cannot substantially expand its yearly production. Rice is now planted on approximately 780,000 hectares of land; upon the completion of Shihmen dam and reservoir, it will be possible to grow rice on 835,000 hectares. If the yield per hectare is 2,500 kilograms, the total yield will be 2,100,000 metric tons, enough to feed 14 million people.[10]

IV. FARM MECHANIZATION

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● 407 As in most undeveloped countries, agriculture in Formosa is conducted on a primitive basis. The average farmer has only

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9. The Four-Year Plan, begun in 1952, is designed to bring about the economic independence of Formosa by increased production in agriculture and industry.

10. The Central Daily News, July 1, 1955.
(continued next page)